



## Caring for Oregon

February 26, 2025

### Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

#### In support of HB 5015

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) strongly supports HB 5015 and requests it be funded in its entirety. ONA represents a diverse community of more than 21,000 nurses, and health care professionals throughout Oregon. Together, we use our collective power to advocate for critical issues impacting patients, nurses, and health care professionals including a more effective, affordable and accessible healthcare system; better working conditions for all health care professionals; and healthier communities.

HB 5015 funds the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), an agency whose work to protect workers against wage and hour law violations is an essential safety net to our members. BOLI has suggested that without full funding of HB 5015, they would have to cap the annual wages of workers when they triage wage and hour complaints, which would exclude many of our members. While our nurses and clinicians have the privilege of making a living wage in most cases, categorically excluding them from enforcing Oregon's wage and hour law is unjust.

Oregon knows we have a healthcare crisis and a workforce shortage. In the 2023 session, the legislature passed HB 2697, safe staffing for healthcare workers, and BOLI has an important enforcement role in ensuring the law works as intended. If BOLI is not resourced to fulfil its statutory and regulatory duties, working Oregonians will be failed.

I urge you to support full funding of HB 5015.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paige Spence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paige Spence

Director of Government Relations